

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 292382
ORIGIN FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 MCT-01
HA-05 SY-05 USSS-00 /044 R

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-----093299 081130Z /15

R 072315Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 292382

BRUSSELS FOR FAA; ROME PASS FAA REP.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: THREAT TO TWA AIRCRAFT AT ROME

1. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING THREAT TO TWA FLIGHTS FROM ROME, FAA HAS ADVISED THAT IT PLANS TO EXCHANGE THE K-9 TEAMS NOW CONDUCTING TWA CHECK BAGGAGE SEARCH IN ROME WITH TWO OTHER K-9 TEAMS ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 12/13. WALTER KORSGAARD, FAA EXPLOSIVE SECURITY EXPERT, ALSO WILL BE REPLACED BY JAMES GIVEN, FAA SECURITY EXPERT. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REPLACEMENT (FLIGHTS, TEAM PERSONNEL, ETC.) WILL BE FORWARDED SOONEST.

2. BECAUSE OF (A) THE INCREASED THREAT TO CIVIL AVIATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE EUROPEAN AREA; (B) TWA HIGH-RISK FLIGHTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST (CAIRO AND TEL AVIV); (C) CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 292382

THE HISTORY OF EXPLOSIONS AND SABOTAGE THREATS TO TWA FLIGHTS AND (D) REPORTS OF KILLINGS, KIDNAPPINGS AND BOMBINGS THROUGHOUT ITALY WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HARD PRESSED TO MAINTAIN SECURITY, TWA OFFICIALS HAVE APPROACHED FAA WITH A REQUEST TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES OF ESTABLISHING A DEDICATED SECURE AREA AT FIUMICINO AIRPORT FOR TWA FLIGHT DEPARTURES.

TWA WOULD MAINTAIN THE SECURITY INTEGRITY OF THE AREA AND PROVIDE ITS OWN SCREENING PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT.

COSTS INVOLVED WOULD BE ABSORBED BY TWA. FYI TWA HAS ESTABLISHED SUCH A SECURE AREA AT ATHENS AIRPORT FOR TWA DEPARTURES. ALSO, IT IS FAA'S UNDERSTANDING THAT GOI HAS ALREADY PERMITTED OTHER AIRLINES (EL AL, IRANAIR, SWISSAIR) TO CONDUCT SPECIAL SECURITY PROCEDURES. END FYI

3. IN ADDITION, TWA HAS ALSO EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE USE OF EXPLOSIVE DETECTING K-9 TEAMS INDEFINITELY BECAUSE OF THE HIGH RISKS TO FLIGHTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE K-9 OPERATIONS AND MAY BE INCLINED TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN K-9 CAPABILITY AND/OR TO PERMIT USG/TWA TO CONTINUE THIS ADDITIONAL HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SECURITY MEASURE.

4. UNLESS OBJECTIONS PERCEIVED, MISSION IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH GOI TO PERMIT TWA TO ESTABLISH A SECURE AREA AT FIUMICINO AIRPORT AND TO DETERMINE GOI POSITION ON K-9 OPERATIONS. UPON RECEIPT OF AN EARLY RESPONSE, TWA AND/OR FAA SECURITY OFFICIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS PARTICULARS IN ROME. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 07-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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